

THE EVENING POST.

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 21, 1888.

LATE DEPARTMENT NEWS.
DUTY ON OVEN'S CLOTHING.—The Treasury Department has informed Mr. H. H. Stevens that a suit of clothes imported by him on the 12th instant cannot be allowed free duty. The question in controversy was this: The clothes were made in Liverpool in August last, but were not finished when Mr. Stevens sailed for America and were not in actual use by Mr. Stevens before his arrival.

THE FIRE IN THE TREASURY.—John D. Biddis, J. A. Watts and Theodore D. Land, the committee appointed to investigate the origin of the fire in room 92, Bureau of Internal Revenue, on the night of October 12 last, have reported. The finding is that the fire probably originated from the flame of an open lamp in the hands of the engineer who vented the water coats that night. The committee is of opinion that the danger of fire can be obviated by using bullseye lanterns instead of inflammable lights.

NAVAL ORDERS.—Ordered—Lieutenant Charles Belknap, to examination for promotion. Detached—Lieutenant Searles Schroeder, from the Richmond and ordered to special duty connected with the dynamite cruiser Vesuvius; Lieutenant N. E. Niles, from the torpedo station, 25th instant, and ordered to the Atlanta; Lieutenants J. K. Corwell, J. H. Sherman and J. D. Cogswell, to resign A. L. Hall, from the Tallapoosa on the arrival of the Kearsarge at Monte Video and ordered to the latter vessel.

Minor and Personal.
Leave of absence for one month has been granted Colonel Thomas B. Bayler of the Ordnance Department.
The National bank notes received for redemption to-day amount to \$301,000.
Marion B. McIntyre of Cincinnati and Joseph K. Ellinger of Palmers, Ga., were appointed storekeepers and gaugers to-day.

THE DISTRICT GOVERNMENT.

The annual report of the Central Dispensary and Emergency Hospital for the last fiscal year has been submitted to the Commissioners. The total number of cases were 5,703, of which 642 were emergency cases. The expenses amounted to \$2,697.72. In July \$12,350 was received from Congress for the purpose of paying off the bonded debt of the institution. There is still a deficit of \$28,000, which is to be met by the sale of the building to be erected for a rear building to the hospital, which contains the drug and operating rooms. Considerable difficulty is experienced at times in paying the running expenses, which now reach \$300, of which the District Government gives \$200 and the remaining \$100 is raised by voluntary contributions.

A petition has been received asking for the grading and paving of T street, between Thirtieth and Fourteenth streets.

The Commissioners have expended \$22,607.05 in new school buildings and sites under the present appropriation. The money was spent as follows: Fourteenth and C streets, \$22,368; R street, between New Hampshire and Seventeenth streets, \$400; Arthur Place, \$30,000; Palmer's, between Virginia and G streets, \$29,833.30; I street, between Fourth and C streets, \$29,833.30; I street, between Fourth and C streets, \$29,833.30; I street, between Fourth and C streets, \$29,833.30.

D. B. Christian has been appointed a patrol driver in the Police Department.
J. M. Keating has applied for appointment as Inspector of Food.

The collector's receipts for the present month have run from \$50,000 to \$70,000 ahead of the daily receipts of any previous November. The office and adjoining hall have been well filled with taxpayers every day since the first of the month, when the new license year began. The receipts up to last night amounted to \$482,000.15. The receipts for current taxes alone are \$300,000 ahead of the first twenty days of last November. The refusal of the collector to receive the license tax is supposed to have something to do with the unusually large receipts, as the custom has been to allow the payment of taxes to go by until the last day of the month, and then send the bill and a check by mail. This would keep the books open for nearly a week after the month was open to record the number of bills received.

Health Officer Townsend reports that there were 77 deaths, 107 births and 35 marriages reported last week. Thirty of the deaths were under 5 years of age and 11 were over 60 years.

Permits to build have been granted to Mrs. McKee to erect two frame dwellings on Superior street, between 11th and 12th streets. Daniel H. Nichols, erect addition to hotel at 485 Pennsylvania avenue, to cost \$8,000.

For Government Printer.
An Indianapolis correspondent of the New York World says: "The latest story started by the gossipers here is that Chairman Clarkson, who edits the *Java State Register*, and John C. New of the *Journal*, are together to control the Government Printing Office and all its adjuncts of political strength. The fact that Colonel W. R. Holloway has been chosen here tends to strengthen the story. Clarkson has been current for some days that Colonel Holloway was to have a go at the Printing Office in one way or another. With New and Clarkson are quick to see that they don't want places in the Cabinet, while the talkers say, makes the Printing Office theory altogether plausible."

A dispatch to the New York Tribune says: Among General Harrison's callers to-day was Captain William M. Meredith of Chicago, who is pretty likely to be the Public Printer for the new Administration. His only claim to consideration is practical experience of a kind that qualifies him for the position to which he aspires and with it the strong political backing, but needs less of it than other office-seekers will require. He is an old army comrade of General Harrison's, having commanded the colored troops in the 25th Indiana Regiment, and afterward for many years he was a neighbor of the General. The relations between them have been of an intimate and friendly character for seven years ago General Harrison, then a member of the Senate, strongly urged Meredith's appointment as Public Printer, but the position was given to S. P. Benson. The letters of recommendation that were used in his behalf at that time he still has in his possession. His appointment would be a great honor to the typographical union, in which he has been prominent. For several years he was foreman of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat's news room, but during the last few years has been superintendent of the Western Bank Note Engraving Company in Chicago.

THE COURT RECORD.

Equity Court—Justice Cox.
Taylor vs. Taylor, hearing of motion for modification of restraining order fixed for 24th.

Circuit Court—Justice Cox.
McMahon vs. Kilbourne, verdict for plaintiff for \$280.48. Cunningham vs. Eden, placed on trial.

Criminal Court—Justice Montgomery.
Wm. F. Lee, alias Hamilton V. Grey, bigamy, verdict not guilty. Chas. Coste, larceny from the person, placed on trial. Ivory M. Blood, falsified pretenses, placed on trial.

Court in General Term. The Chief Justice, Justices James and Cox.

Meloy vs. Central National Bank, argued and submitted. Thomas vs. Holtzman, on hearing.

To Inspect the Kearsarge.
Next Friday a board of inspection, with Admiral Joutet at the head, will go on board the U. S. steamer Kearsarge at Norfolk, and thoroughly inspect that ship-of-war.

If she is in condition to go to sea and prepare for action. The board will make a short cruise out to sea, and the vessel will then be severely tested. If she is found to be seaworthy she will return to port, take on board a relief crew for the U. S. steamer Tallapoosa and proceed to her station on the South Atlantic Squadron.

HE NEVER SAW ANY BAD WORK

Contractor Beckwith Examined by the Court of Inquiry.

HE THINKS THE INSPECTORS TO BLAME.

Major Lydecker and Lieutenant Townsend to Testify Before the Congressional Committee.

The taking of testimony was resumed by the Military Court of Inquiry this morning at the War Department.

Lieutenant Davis, the recorder, was absent, on account of illness in his family, and Lieutenant H. R. Lemly of the Third Artillery acted in his stead. Daniel Griffin, a colored man, was sworn. He had been a mortar mixer in the tunnel work. His testimony was not of an important nature, relating to the mixing of the mortar, which he said was fairly well done and, as a rule, the mortar was pretty good.

Mr. Beckwith, one of the firm of Beckwith & Quackenbush, and later Beckwith, Quackenbush & Co., contractors on the tunnel, testified that his personal supervision over the work extended from the time the work commenced until March, 1886. Up to this time no packing except dry packing was done. The work of putting in the brick masonry and dry rubble packing was sublet to T. J. Brennan. There was, he thought, no question as to the power of the firm to sublet it. Witness was in the tunnel every day, and inspected it as the work progressed.

The brick which were delivered were inspected by a Government inspector—Lucas, he thought. The mortar was mixed outside the shaft, dry, two parts of sand to one of cement. The Government inspectors superintended the mixing of the mortar. Witness spent from four to eight hours in the tunnel daily. He inspected the lining of the tunnel, the masonry and the packing, and made it a point to visit each heading once a day. He had no particular time to visit the tunnel.

"Did you ever see any bad brick work?" asked the president.
"Never at all."
"Did you ever see any bad packing?"
"Not a bit."

"Did you ever hear of any bad work being done?"
"Never to my knowledge."

"What steps did you take to prevent bad work?"
"Well, I gave the work my personal supervision; then, there were Government inspectors and foremen who were strictly charged to prevent bad work."

"Did any one in the employment of the Government ever receive any money from you for work?"
"Never."

Witness stated that while in New York his partner, Mr. Quackenbush, urged him that certain workmen were needed and he sent them here from the New York Aqueduct. Witness could not explain the bad work on the tunnel.

"If a foreman or inspector had done his duty, could any large cavity have existed?"
"No, sir."

"Do you know of any Government inspector ever receiving any money from you?"
"I do not know of any such instance."

Colonel Hodges—"Did you inspect the work as frequently after the contract was set as before?"
"Yes; about the same."

"Do you think the subletting of the contract relieved you from any responsibility on the work?"
"Witness hesitated a moment, and then replied, 'No; I do not.'"

Witness was closely questioned as to the men sent on from New York. His partner, Mr. Quackenbush, testified last week that the men had been brought from New York to his knowledge. The men were foremen and drillmen.

The President—"Mr. Beckwith, I will ask you a question, which you can answer or not, as you please; was there a margin of profit between your contract with the Government and the sub-contract which you let?"
"Yes, sir."

Theodore Harbeck was then sworn. He is a fair-haired young man, with a pronounced Teutonic accent. He was a bricklayer and worked long in May in Foundry Branch and Rock Creek. He testified that as much as he could see of it, the packing in the side walls was laid to mortar and done well. This was under Inspector Lucas. One night he "slept in" some "bays" while O'Brien was inspector. The inspector called for mortar right along and seemed to use a great deal.

The Court in a Smile.
The witness kept the Court in a smile all the time. He was a very voluble talker, and his German accent and original methods of expressing himself lent a piquancy to his testimony which was appreciated by the Court. The grave General Ruger chuckled audibly, austere Colonel Craighill was forced to smile, dignified Colonel Hodges, ditto, while Jolly Dr. Chester grew redder in the face in trying to prevent laughing, and his ample proportions occasionally shook with the effort.

At 12 o'clock a recess was taken until 1:30, when the reading of the record was taken up.

The Court expressed considerable trouble in finding Sub-Contractor Brennan. He was finally located in Tremont, N. Y., and telegraphed for. A reply was received from his wife stating he was in Philadelphia.

The Congressional Investigation.
Mr. Clements of the Congressional Committee appointed to investigate the Acqueduct scandal said this afternoon that on Monday, the 20th instant, the committee would begin the examination of witnesses by placing on the stand Major Lydecker and Lieutenant Townsend. The mechanical experts, he said, were still busily engaged in making their report. He did not think they would make their final report before the meeting of Congress.

One Way to Fix It.
It has been found that the Sixteenth-street extended road, which has been fenced up, is over private land, and that the Commissioners are powerless to open it. There is, however, an unimproved road around at the side of the hill, which will be improved, and will then afford access to the region now reached by the present road.

Complaint of Sleeping Steam.
Mr. J. Edward Chapman complained at the Commissioners' office to-day that the escaping steam from the electric light works makes a great noise as it makes it almost impossible to sleep in the neighborhood of the works.

Mrs. George B. Williams of 1711 Rhode Island avenue called this morning for California, but during the day she was informed by her sister, Mrs. L. L. Arnold.

A SAD ACCIDENT.

Walter Scudder Shot While Cleaning an Old Revolver.

"I have found an old revolver among my effects, and I have drawn the loads and I think I will clean it to-night."

So Walter Scudder wrote to a young lady friend in Connecticut last night as he sat in his room in Dr. Keech's house, at 424 East Capitol street.

He finished his letter, enclosed it in an envelope, addressed it and then, removing his coat and replacing his shoes with slippers he sat down to clean the old revolver from which the loads had been drawn—all but one.

It was about 10 o'clock when Mr. Scudder went to his room. An hour or so afterward Dr. Keech, as he was reading in his study, heard a sharp report, followed by a groan and a sound as of a body falling heavily. He ran to the foot of the stairs and one of the ladies in the house cried down to him that something had happened in Mr. Scudder's room.

The doctor hastened up stairs to the room occupied by Mr. Scudder. He knocked and received no answer. The door was unlocked and as he opened it a horrible sight met his eyes. Lying back in a chair with blood streaming from his mouth was Walter Scudder.

His head had fallen forward, and a smoking revolver lay on his knees. Even as the doctor looked, the body slipped from the chair to the floor, the revolver falling heavily on the carpet at the same time. The doctor lifted the limp and bleeding body on the bed, but his young friend was dead.

The bullet from the old revolver had passed through his lungs, entering just a trifle above his left nipple, and death was instantaneous.

Mr. Scudder's only relatives in this city were notified, and word was sent to Police-Lieutenant Boteler of the tragedy.

This morning the body was removed to the residence of Mr. Scudder's aunt, Mrs. Van Doren, at 447 East Capitol street. Mrs. Van Doren is the only relative the dead man had in this city. His brother was notified by telegraph of Walter's death and is expected to arrive here to-day.

Mr. Scudder had lived in the city about three years.

He came here from Princeton, N. J., to accept a clerkship in the Government Printing Office, which he held at the time of his death, and has boarded at Dr. Keech's nearly ever since he came here.

He was a popular young man, 31 years old. The lady to whom he wrote last night was married to-day, and all knowledge of the sad accident to Mr. Scudder has been kept from her.

Coroner Patterson examined the body at Mrs. Van Doren's house this morning, read the letter quoted above, and gave a certificate of death from the accidental discharge of a pistol in the dead man's own hands, not deeming an inquest necessary.

The body is to be taken to Princeton for interment to-morrow.

THE BAPTISTS MEETING.

The Question of Tract Distribution Discussed at To-day's Session.

The members of the Baptist Association were, in their seats this morning when Rev. C. A. Stakely called the meeting to order. After the morning exercises Mr. R. C. Fox presented the report of the Committee on Sunday Schools.

The report commends the teachers and officers of the Sunday-school for their diligence and zeal displayed in the discharge of their duties.

A discussion on Sunday-school work followed the reading of the report, which was participated in by Rev. S. H. Green, pastor of Calvary; Rev. C. A. Stakely, pastor of the First Baptist; Rev. D. W. Fanning, pastor of the Eastern Baptist Church; and Rev. C. C. Meador, R. C. Fox and R. W. Fenwick, who was adopted.

Mr. E. B. Curtis presented the report of the Committee on Bible and Tract Distribution. The report recommends that the incoming executive board be instructed to appropriate from the general fund of the association a reasonable amount—\$25—for the purchase of tracts.

A long discussion followed, during which Rev. C. C. Meador, Z. R. Nichols, Professor O. T. Mason and E. B. Curtis made remarks.

Professor Mason argued in favor of tracts, saying that the modern tract was not only interesting, but instructive.

The meeting then took a recess, and the members retired to the Sunday School room where an inviting lunch awaited an attack.

After the recess the meeting resumed, and half an hour was given to devotional exercises.

The report of the committee on next place of meeting and preacher who will deliver the annual sermon next year was considered at the afternoon session.

AN IMPORTANT POINT INVOLVED.

Does a Congressional Act Violate the Fourteenth Amendment?

The case of Milly Thomas vs. William F. Hollyman was argued in the Court in General Term to-day. The plaintiff is a colored woman who some time ago recovered an undivided half of certain property by means of an ejectment suit. Later she died a bill for a partition and an accounting.

While she was a slave she had lived with Charles Queen, by whom she had two children, and later with John Thomas, by whom she had two more children. She did not hear from Thomas after the early days of the war.

These children filed a bill to revive the suit and the defendant claims that they are not the legal heirs of Milly Thomas, although her children. They say that she never lived in the married relation with either Quinn or Thomas after she acquired her freedom.

They also claimed that there was no marriage, the parties living in Maryland, illegitimate, and the act therefore operates as a denial to the white citizen of the "equal protection of the laws" provided for by the Fourteenth Amendment. The case was sent to the Court in General Term for hearing in the first instance.

C. C. Cole appears for the plaintiff and Messrs. A. A. Blevins and E. A. Newman for the defendant.

To Determine Her Sanity.
A lunatic asylum to-day to inquire into the mental condition of Elizabeth Howell. A similar investigation last January resulted in her being declared insane.

The committee is greatly elated over the success of the National ticket and will, it is understood, put out a large number of letters as well as full county tickets in counties where they have a prospect of winning.

A plan was also set on foot looking to the establishment of a Republican newspaper in this city.

No Trace of Annie Crockett.
Up to a late hour this afternoon the detective had found no trace of missing 13-year-old Annie Crockett.

OUR BIG QUADRENNIAL BALL.

It Will Be Held in the Court of the Pension Building.

CONTRIBUTIONS RAPIDLY COMING IN.

A Number of Donations from Various Business Men Received To-day.

Chairman Britton has received a letter from the Postmaster-General, complying with his request to defer the transfer of the City Postoffice to the Pension building until after March 4.

In his letter the Postmaster-General says that he has carefully considered the law and the extent of the discretion reposed in him as to the time of the removal and other considerations connected with the matter.

He is of the opinion that the removal may be deferred consistently with his duty in the premises and with the interests of the Government. General George B. Williams was appointed this morning chairman committee on banquet at ball.

The consent of the Secretary of the Interior for the use of the Pension Building remains to be obtained, but as he is known to be willing to grant permission, the matter is practically settled.

Chairman Britton has appointed Hallet Kilbourn a member of the executive committee.

S. S. Shedd & Brother have offered to put in all the gas fixtures for the ball-room free of charge. Mr. Scott Towers, bookkeeper to the committee, has opened accounts with all the subscribers to the inaugural fund. There will be many smaller subscribers, but as an accurate measure, all of his colleagues urging the expediency of the matter at that time.

The discussion was rather heated, Messrs. Whitney and Vilas exchanging bitter words during the debate.

It was finally determined that the message should go to Congress, although the President was undoubtedly disturbed by his position taken by Mr. Whitney, whom he regarded as the shrewdest political adviser in the cabinet.

THE LEAGUE MEETING.

What Was Done at the Session This Morning.

New York, Nov. 21.—Delegates to the Convention of the National Baseball League, were late in arriving at Fifth Avenue hotel to-day.

The Joint Committee on Rules was in session until midnight last night.

The changes of rules adopted by the committee were the chief topics of discussion this morning, and they were generally commended, except the rejection of the high and low ball system.

The unanimous opinion is that it would be a good thing to do away with the error and substitute the sacrifice bunt.

The statement that the Washington Club would endeavor to secure Ward was given this morning by President Hewitt of that club, who said that his club was an aspirant for the services of Ward.

"The Boston team," said Mr. Hewitt, "and we would like to have him, but \$15,000 is too high for the Senators."

Here Mr. Hewitt gave a long, low whistle, which plainly intimated that Mr. Ward came too high for the Senators.

The Board of Directors of the League met at 9:30 and approved of all matters pertaining to the official presentation of the pennant to the champions of the league.

They also adopted the accounts of last season's games and passed upon the average of the world championship games.

As soon as the convention adjourned into session with Mr. Young in the chair. After hearing the report of the Joint Rules Committee, the subject of admitting a successor to the defunct Detroit club will come up.

It will probably be settled at once. Everything points to the Cleveland Club as the one likely to be admitted. The question of reducing the number of the Court Players will also be considered.

As near as can be ascertained the number of games each club will be required to play next season will be 120.

OPENING OKLAHOMA.

The Interstate Convention Appeal to the President.

WICHITA, KAN., Nov. 21.—The Interstate Oklahoma Convention met yesterday with about 500 delegates present from Kansas, Texas, Missouri, Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska.

S. D. McKim of Topeka was made permanent chairman. The committee on resolutions reported the following, which was adopted.

Whereas, this convention believes that by the opening of Oklahoma Territory the rights of the white citizen of the Territory will be impaired, while the condition of the Territory will be greatly improved, and

Whereas we believe it is an invariable rule of such conventions that the question will be settled without lawful authority, if not legally organized, and

Whereas we believe that the welfare of the country in general and of the surrounding States in particular, requires the speedy transportation of the settled area of the Indian Territory into settled and civilized commonwealth, and

Whereas the proposed legislation is especially demanded because of the alarming prevalence of crime in the Territory, therefore, be it resolved, That we urge most imperatively on Congress the duty of passing at once substantially the pending bill to organize the Territory of Oklahoma, so that well-advanced in the House of Representatives.

Resolved, That we call on His Excellency, the President of the United States, to exercise the authority of the Court in the Territory, the laws now existing, or to be enacted, looking to the establishment of the proposed new Territory.

The committee to go to Washington in the interest of the Oklahoma Territory was appointed; also an auxiliary committee.

The Hon. William Springer of Springfield, Ill., made a speech, explaining the bill bearing his name. He was followed by General Weaver of Iowa and Colonel Mansur of Missouri and Hon. Sidney Clark of Lawrence, Kansas. At the evening session the convention was addressed by Captain W. L. Couch, Colonel Crocker and others.

A QUIET CELEBRATION AT WINDSOR.

LONDON, Nov. 21.—The birthday celebration of the Empress Frederick was quietly observed at Windsor to-day. The Empress received scores of congratulations, and many German officials called and brought presents for her.

Fuller Fighting Fire.
SANDUSKY, O., Nov. 21.—A lamp exploded in the cabin of the propeller Leland at Huron yesterday and she caught fire. No other facilities being at hand than buckets for the extinguishment of the fire, the flames could not be checked and the boat was destroyed.

The Mystery of Dick Oglesby's Death.
DECATUR, Ill., Nov. 21.—The relatives of Dick Oglesby, the actor, deny the story that he was killed near Marionville, Mo., because of having betrayed Miss Schaefer of Cincinnati; say, yet, however, have no positive intelligence as to how he met his death.

Evicting the Iowa Settlers.
WASHTON, IOWA, Nov. 21.—Five evictions of settlers from the Iowa Military Territory were made Monday and six more yesterday. Most of the settlers realize that they must yield to the law and some of them are ready to purchase their lands.

A LITTLE INSIDE HISTORY.

How the Famous Tariff Message Came to the Senate.

New York, Nov. 21.—The World's Washington correspondent telegraphs what is claimed to be the inside history of President Cleveland's famous tariff reduction message sent to Congress last December.

Manton Marble is named as the person who persuaded the President to force tariff reform into politics as a distinctive issue. Henry Watterson assisted Mr. Marble in convincing the President that this course was the proper one to pursue.

The original draft of the message is said to have been made by Mr. Marble. As transmitted to Congress there were some changes from Mr. Marble's composition, but the main features were preserved.

When the President first submitted the message to his Cabinet Mr. Whitney was absent from the room. The other Cabinet officers endorsed the President's determination to send the document to Congress. Before the message was sent in, however, Mr. Whitney returned to Washington and was immediately consulted by President Cleveland upon the subject of the proposed decided tariff reform stand to be taken by the Administration.

Secretary Whitney at once suggested that, however wise and commendable the proposition advanced might be in relation to the country, the Secretary also pointed out to the President one important instance in which the alleged facts advanced were not correct. In this, Mr. Whitney was found to be right and the message was modified accordingly.

A special meeting of the Cabinet was then called, at which the subject was again considered. All of the members were present. Mr. Whitney was alone in his opposition to the proposed measure, all of his colleagues urging the expediency of the message at that time.

The discussion was rather heated, Messrs. Whitney and Vilas exchanging bitter words during the debate.

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